

PATENT
Customer No. 22,852
Attorney Docket No. 2860.0637-06

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
Norikazu ARAI et al.) Group Art Unit: Unassigned
Continuation of Application) Examiner: Unassigned
No. 09/487,928 filed January 20, 2000)
Filed: Herewith)
For: OPTICAL PICKUP APPARATUS,)
RECORDING/REPRODUCING)
APPARATUS PROVIDED WITH)
THE OPTICAL PICKUP)
APPARATUS, OPTICAL)
ELEMENT, AND INFORMATION)
RECORDING/REPRODUCING)
METHOD)

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97(b), Applicants bring to the attention of the Examiner the documents listed on the attached PTO 1449. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed concurrently with the above-referenced continuation application.

Copies of the listed documents were previously submitted in prior application, application no. 09/487,928, filing date January 20, 2000, upon which Applicants rely for the benefits provided in 35 U.S.C. § 120. Applicants respectfully request that the

FINNEGAN
HENDERSON
FARABOW
GARRETT &
DUNNER LLP

1300 I Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005
202.408.4000
Fax 202.408.4400
www.finnegan.com

Examiner consider the listed documents and indicate that they were considered by making appropriate notations on the attached form.

Applicants wish to bring to the attention of the Examiner the following co-pending applications:

<u>Application No.</u>	<u>Filing Date</u>
09/487,928	January 20, 2000
09/791,889	February 26, 2001
10/612,019	July 3, 2003
10/612,056	July 3, 2003
10/611,920	July 3, 2003
10/612,168	July 3, 2003

These applications all have the same specification and drawings as the current application. This application claims priority to Application No. 09/487,928. The remaining applications are divisionals of Application No. 09/487,928, and for the Examiner's convenience, the preliminary amendments from each of those applications is enclosed.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that each or all of the listed documents are material or constitute "prior art." If the Examiner applies any of the documents as prior art against any claim in the application and Applicants determine that the cited documents do not constitute "prior art" under United States law, Applicants reserve the right to present to the office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such documents.

FINNEGAN
HENDERSON
FARABOW
GARRETT &
DUNNER LLP

1300 I Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005
202.408.4000
Fax 202.408.4400
www.finnegan.com

Applicants further reserve the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should one or more of the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Statement, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: December 23, 2003

By: 

Michael R. Kelly
Reg. No. 33,921

FINNEGAN
HENDERSON
FARABOW
GARRETT &
DUNNER LLP

1300 I Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005
202.408.4000
Fax 202.408.4400
www.finnegan.com

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION

Atty. Docket No.	2860.0637-05	Appln. No.
Applicant	Norikazu ARAI et al.	
Filing Date	Herewith	Group:

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initial*	Document Number	Issue Date	Name	Class	Sub Class	Filing Date If Appropriate
	6,118,594	Sept. 12, 2000	Maruyama			
	6,088,322	Jul. 11, 2000	Broome et al.			
	5,717,674	Feb. 10, 1998	Mori et al.			
	5,703,856	Dec. 30, 1997	Hayashi et al.			
	5,696,749	Dec. 9, 1997	Brazas, Jr. et al.			
	5,526,338	Jun. 11, 1996	Hasman et al.			
	5,349,471	Sept. 20, 1994	Morris et al.			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

	Document Number	Publication Date	Country	Class	Sub Class	Translation Yes or No
	2-183453	Jul. 18, 1990	Japan			Yes (abstract only)
	0881634	May 28, 1998	Europe			
	DE19929623 A1	Dec. 30, 1999	Germany			No
	WO 00/00964	Jan. 6, 2000	PCT			
	0747893A2	Dec. 11, 1996	Europe			
	0828244A2	Mar. 11, 1998	Europe			
	6-242373	Sept. 2, 1994	Japan			No
	8-55363	Feb. 27, 1996	Japan			No
	9-54973	Feb. 25, 1997	Japan			No
	286954	Nov. 4, 1997	Japan			No
	10-283668	Oct. 23, 1998	Japan			No

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

	The partial European Search Report under Rule 45 EPC dated Dec. 2, 2001.
	European Search Report, dated January 2, 2002

Examiner _____ Date Considered _____

*Examiner: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION

Atty. Docket No.	2860.0637-05	Appln. No.
Applicant	Norikazu ARAI et al.	
Filing Date	Herewith	Group:

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initial*	Document Number	Issue Date	Name	Class	Sub Class	Filing Date If Appropriate
	6,363,046	March, 2000	Yoo et al.			
	6,337,841	January, 2002	Kim et al.			
	6,154,443	November, 2000	Hoshino et al			
	6,084,843	July, 2000	Hayashi et al.			
	5,903,536	May, 1999	Lee et al.			
	5,889,748	March, 1999	Shimano et al.			
	5,696,750	December, 1997	Katayama, Ryuichi			
	5,777,803	July, 1998	Ju et al.			
	6,192,021	February, 2001	Saito et al.			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
	Document Number	Publication Date	Country	Class	Sub Class	Translation Yes or No

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)	
	Preliminary Amendment for U.S. Patent Application No. 09/791,889, filed February 26, 2001.
	Preliminary Amendment for U.S. Patent Application No. 10/612,019, filed July 3, 2003.
	Preliminary Amendment for U.S. Patent Application No. 10/612,056, filed July 3, 2003.
	Preliminary Amendment for U.S. Patent Application No. 10/611,920, filed July 3, 2003.
	Preliminary Amendment for U.S. Patent Application No. 10/612,168, filed July 3, 2003.
Examiner	Date Considered
*Examiner: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.	
Form PTO 1449	Patent and Trademark Office - U.S. Department of Commerce